considers his excessive "veneration for the superior wisdom of his rival practitioner." He refers to Ross as "the fatty who will always regard [himself] as a graduate masturbate" [sic].

Of his all his physicians Dr. Ross incurred his special enmity for making insinuations about his sexuality. He alleged that when he was coming down with typhoid fever he consulted Dr. Ross who "advised that my penis be circumcised." A little later he blamed Dr. Ross for inadequately helping him, when he was "a nervous little book-worm who had not masturbated twenty times in the unusually brief period in which I was a victim of that inevitable youthful danger." It is unclear whether he was angry at Ross for diagnosing him (and stigmatizing him), for not diagnosing him sufficiently or in time to prevent further danger, or for not allaying fears based on (false?) notions that "seminal fluid was extracted from the brain," that such emissions were "liable to decrease the brain power," etc. It seems likely though that he blamed his present mental condition on a habit of masturbation which he felt Dr. Ross had not adequately helped him to cope with or control.

Mr. Cooper's letter suggests that he was dogged by fear and anger that his masturbation had led or at least significantly contributed to his present problems -- and a desire to deny that he was a masturbator at all. Toward the end of the letter he inconsistently asserted that "Dr Ross, being one of these individuals who live on superficialities, does not know an earnest young person when he sees one. He took me for a masturbate." At the same time he believes masturbation, either real or alleged, figures prominently in his case: "so long as you agree with him, I shall be force to let the people here do as they will with me." He intuits (correctly) hat his letter might be used against him: "I know damned well that the expression I am penning this morning may, very likely will, result in my being detained in this here beauty-parlour for an indefinite period."

Mr. Cooper was released on probation in the summer of 1911. On August 5, 1911 his mother wrote the new Superintendent, Dr. Forster. She thanked him and his staff for her son's recovery, but expressed bitterness about Dr. Stead for "the cruel things he said to me on Christmas day 1910." Harvey Clare, an assistant, finally wrote an apology on August 8, 1911.

Mr. Cooper subsequently worked as a deck-hand on a Great Lakes freighter. For a few weeks he did well. Something, however, happened to him in Detroit.